

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/038,658

Examiner

Barry W Taylor

Applicant(s)

CLARK ET AL.

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/27/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,10-16 and 19-33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-7, 10-16 and 19-33 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a method of providing billing information to a customer in accordance with a customer-defined format, comprising: assigning telephone numbers to company units; defining how each of the company units relate to each other in a hierarchy; receiving billing data from at least one service provider at a billing repository; storing the received billing data with associated information indicating that the customer desires presentation of the billing information via a web-based billing application; storing the hierarchy on a server, the server extracting billing data from the billing repository and formatting the billing data in accordance with the hierarchy, the formatting including processing the billing data associated with each telephone number in accordance with the hierarchy; and presenting the processed billing information to the customer in accordance with the associated information, the processed billing information presented to the customer via graphical user interface comprising a billing screen including a plurality of columnized charges listed under respective column headings and arranged according to a type of charge, such that selection by customer of a charge in a particular column causes a report to be displayed to the customer showing detailed charges that comprise the selected charge as recited in independent claims 1, 25, 30 and shown in figure 21.

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Prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a method of providing a bill in accordance with a customer-defined format, comprising: receiving billing information from at least one service provider at a billing repository; retrieving the billing information from the billing repository, the billing information including associated information indicating that a customer desires a paper copy of the bill, processing the retrieved billing information at a server in accordance with the customer-defined format stored on the server, the customer-defined format comprising a hierarchy; sending the processed billing information to an outputting operation where a bill is entered in accordance with the hierarchy; and sending the bill to a customer, in accordance with the associated information, wherein the bill comprises an account summary including a hierarchy total column, a monthly charges column, a usage column, and other charges and credits column, a taxes and surcharges column, and a total column as recited in independent claim 4 and shown in figure 21.

Prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a method of enabling a customer to create a hierarchal structure to support internal company criteria, comprising: enabling the customer to assign telephone numbers to company units; enabling the customer to define how each of the company units relate to each other in a hierarchy; storing the hierarchy on a server, the server receiving billing data and associated information indicating that the customer desires presentation of billing information via a web-based billing application, from a billing repository and formatting the billing data in accordance with the hierarchy; enabling the customer to view the billing information associated with selected

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portions of the hierarchy, in accordance with the associated information; enabling the customer to update the assignments of telephone numbers, the updating comprising moving the telephone numbers within the hierarchy using Java drag and drop operations; enabling the customer to update the definition of how each of the company units relate to each other in the hierarchy, the updating comprising moving the company units within the hierarchy using Java drag and drop operations; enabling a representative of the customer to check out the hierarchy, at which time the hierarchy is available to other representatives of the customer on a read only basis; and prompting the representative of the customer to check in the hierarchy as recited independent claims 7, 30 and shown in figure 21.

Prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a method of enabling a customer to create a hierarchal structure to support internal company criteria, comprising: assigning telephone numbers to company units according to customer's internal company criteria; defining how each of the company units relate to each other in accordance with the customer's request; storing the hierarchy on a server, the server receiving billing data and associated information indicating that a customer desires presentation of billing information via a web-based billing application, from a billing repository and formatting the billing data in accordance with the hierarchy, the billing repository having received the billing data from at least one service provider; enabling the customer to view the billing information associated with selected portions of the hierarchy, in accordance with the associated information; enabling the customer to update the assignments of

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telephone numbers, the updating comprising moving the telephone numbers within the hierarchy using Java drag and drop operations; enabling the customer to update the definition of how each of the company units relate to each other in the hierarchy, the updating comprising moving the company units within the hierarchy using Java drag and drop operations; enabling a representative of the customer to check out the hierarchy, at which time the hierarchy is available to other representatives of the customer on a read only basis; and prompting the representative of the customer to check in the hierarchy as recited independent claim 16 and shown in figure 21.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W. Taylor, telephone number (571) 272-7509, who is available Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm.

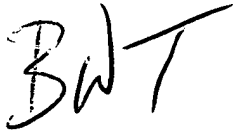
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached at (571) 272-7499. The facsimile phone number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600, the 2600 Customer Service telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

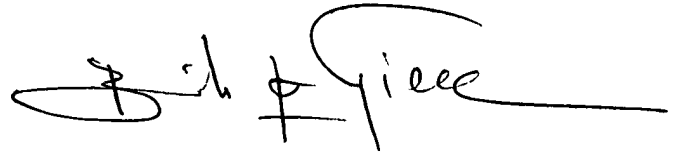
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

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Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A stylized handwritten signature consisting of the letters 'BWT' in a cursive, connected script.

Barry W. Taylor
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2600
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Binh Tieu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BINH TIEU
PATENT EXAMINER